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Article Creeds : New Testament

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III. New Testament

[1020] The letters of the NT contain a series of creed formulas, so-called *pistis formulas*. Since they do not have a legal status but reflect more the attitude of faith of their confessors than strict ecclesiastical rules they are treated fully in the article “Faith. New Testament.” An outstanding example is the rich formula in 1 Cor 15 : 3–5 which not only combines Jesus’ death with his resurrection but also adds the first Christophanies. Regardless of the christological creed formulas the classical Jewish creeds do have an important place in early Christian traditions. The *šēma Yis’ra* [–]_–[–]_–[–]_– *el* [–]_–[–]_– (Deut 6 : 4) appears in Pauline argumentation (e.g., Rom 3 : 30; 1 Cor 8 : 6 together with a christological extension) as well as within the Jesus traditions (Mark 12 : 29, in v. 30 followed by Deut 6 : 5 [cf. Matt 22 : 37; Luke 10 : 27]; 10 : 18 par. with reference also to Deut 6 : 5). These [1021] quotations demonstrate that Jesus’ message has to be understood in the framework of the monotheistic belief of Israel, amplified and reinterpreted later by the early Christian christological confessions.

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